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THE NEW L & METRO FILE

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5 THINGS TO KNOW

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NIKKI M MASCALI, REPORTER

Come April, hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers are going to be looking for a new way to get from Brooklyn to Manhattan during the L train shutdown. While the MTA will add bus and subway service and make other changes to offset the influx, a group of Brooklynites will offer The New L, a luxury van service to Manhattan complete with Wi-Fi and breakfast bars. Visit page 4 or **metro.us** to get the details on all our commuter coverage.

TRUMP TO VISIT N. CAROLINA, DEATH TOLL AT 33

1 Residents of the Carolinas struggled to return to normalcy on Tuesday after taking a beating from Hurricane Florence, but their efforts were hindered by standing water and additional flooding expected from already swollen rivers. Florence has killed at least 33 people since coming ashore as a hurricane on Friday, including 26 in North Carolina and six in South Carolina. One person was killed when Florence spawned at least 16 tornadoes on Monday in Virginia, the National Weather Service said. The White House said President Donald Trump would visit North Carolina on Wednesday. He has been criticized for his handling of Hurricane Maria, which devastated Puerto Rico last year, and more recently for disputing the official death toll of 3,000. Waterways were expected to keep rising on Tuesday in places like Fayetteville, N.C., a city of 200,000 in the southern part of the state, according to the National Weather Service, hampering efforts to restore power, clear roads and allow residents to return to their homes.

FOOTBALL HOF MEMBERS WANT BENEFITS, PAY

2 The newly formed, players-only Hall of Fame Board, made up of Pro Football Hall of Fame players, is threatening a boycott of enshrinement ceremonies unless the members receive health insurance and an annual salary that includes a share of NFL revenues. Former Rams running back Eric Dickerson is the chairman of the board created to represent the pursuit of health care and a piece of the NFL's massive revenue pie. The Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, has undergone an enormous construction project in recent years — Hall of Fame Village, aided by a huge sponsorship deal with Johnson Controls — that includes a retirement center for players, who would receive health care on the premises. The project also includes a new stadium and will bring multiple football fields for youth participation initiatives. In the letter, Hall of Fame members reference Major League Baseball's lifetime health coverage afforded any player who serves a single day on a big-league roster, and point to the established $620 million "Legacy Fund" as one of the NFL's "cynical public relations ploys that fail to help those who desperately need it."

FAST-FOOD ACTIVISTS ORGANIZE STRIKE TO COMBAT SEXUAL HARASSMENT

3 McDonald's workers are joined by other activists as they march toward the company's headquarters to protest sexual harassment at the fast-food chain's restaurants on Tuesday in Chicago. Similar actions took place around the country and were touted as the first-ever nationwide "strike against sexual harassment in the fast-food industry." According to a recent study, 40 percent of female fast-food workers experience unwanted sexual behavior on the job.

GETTY IMAGES

NEEDLES FOUND IN STRAWBERRIES IN AUSTRALIA

4 Needles have been found inside strawberries in two more Australian states, police said on Monday, broadening a health scare that has caused supermarkets to recall brands and farmers to dump fruit amid the peak growing season. One man in the state of Western Australia and a girl in South Australia reported finding needles in their strawberries in the past two days, according to police. Seven brands of strawberries in Australia are now believed to be contaminated with needles and pins, according to police reports, prompting warnings from authorities to slice the fruit before eating. Queensland Police Commissioner Ian Stewart told reporters on Monday that it was unclear if the contamination was the result of a single person acting alone or several people acting independently and that tracing back through the complex supply chain was taking time. Consumers in Queensland were the first to report finding needles embedded inside strawberries. "A member of the public today presented at York Police Station to report his concerns that a needle had been in a punnet of strawberries," the Western Australian police said in a statement.

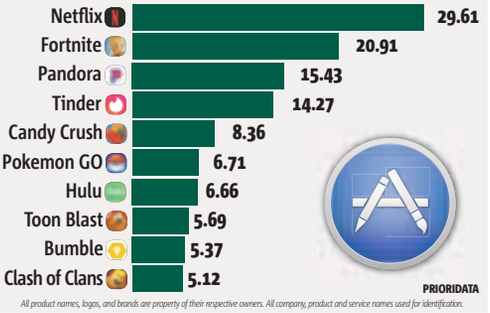
POLAND SUGGESTS 'FORT TRUMP' FOR MILITARY BASE

5 President Donald Trump said on Tuesday the United States is considering a request from Poland for a permanent U.S. military presence in the fellow NATO country, acknowledging that he shares Poland's concerns about possible Russian aggression. Polish President Andrzej Duda asked Trump for a permanent U.S. base during a White House meeting, offering to name it "Fort Trump," and explaining it would be a bulwark against what he considers a threat from Russia. Trump said he agreed with Duda that Moscow had "acted aggressively" in the region and said the request for a base was under consideration. He said he appreciated Duda's offer to put more than $2 billion into the project. "We're looking at it very seriously, I know Poland likes the idea very much, and it's something that we are considering, yes," Trump told reporters. Moscow expressed concern in May over reports about Poland's request, saying NATO's expansion toward Russia's borders undermined stability in Europe.

STATS

TOP 10 HIGHEST-GROSSING IPHONE APPS

Total revenue of the highest-grossing iPhone apps in August 2018 in the U.S. (in million USD)



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L train shutdown begets The New L luxury shuttle service

With the L train shutdown affecting 225K straphangers, a group of Brooklynites will offer The New L luxury van service to Manhattan.

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THE NEW L

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The L Train shutdown is seven months away, and among the many concerns that remain is how the city's already overcrowded and in-crisis transit system will truly be able to accommodate the influx of straphangers seeking travel alternatives.

For 15 months starting in April, the L train will only run between Bedford Avenue and Canarsie-Rockaway Parkway in Brooklyn. Service to Manhattan will be suspended to rehabilitate the Canarsie Tunnel, which goes under the East River and was severely damaged by Superstorm Sandy in 2012.

After reviewing the MTA's mitigation plan for the L train shutdown, Brooklynite Jaime Getto felt the plan "wouldn't cut it," so she and some friends began thinking about ways to get to Manhattan during the suspension.

"We were thinking of doing a shuttle for ourselves and people in our building, but continuing to dig deeper into the numbers this is affecting, we decided to open it up to the public," Getto explained.

And The New L was born.

For a $155 flat monthly fee, a luxury 14-passenger van, complete with Wi-Fi and breakfast bars, will pick The New L customers up at their homes and drop them off near their Manhattan destinations.

"We're taking existing vehicles that are underutilized, so we're putting them to work, not going out buying vehicles, nor will we ever own a vehicle," Getto said. "We're partnering with existing taxi and limo companies that are having trouble since Uber and Lyft."

The New L, which will only operate Monday through Friday during the L train shutdown in the areas affected by it, has "tons of organic sign-ups so far, still a nominal portion of the affected population," Getto said, and made clear the service aims to "fill a gap, not replace the MTA."

"What I would say time and time again is that I hope the MTA comes out and is able to offer more buses and we can cease operation," she added.

Thirty days after The New L launches in April, it will roll out, for a TBA price, "microtransit" shuttles to the next closest subway. Within 90 days of launch, it will think about offering reverse trips from Manhattan to Brooklyn.

"Right now we're focused on getting to work," Getto said. "At this point, we're collecting desired drop-off times in the city, pick-up locations, drop-off locations, and collecting rider sign-ups so we have enough data points to build efficient routes."

The MTA had not responded to a comment request regarding The New L at press time.

The fight against erectile dysfunction

Don't worry. It happens. But there are ways to stop it!
By Pat King

Many men deal with the awkward physical disability commonly known as erectile dysfunction. As a matter of fact, it may be a more common drawback for more men than you may think. According to a study conducted by the Cleveland Clinic, roughly 52 percent of men experience erectile dysfunction in their day-to-day lives, with 40 percent of men age 40 experience it and 70 percent of men age 70. So what are some ways that you can combat this … gulp… disappointing condition that affects so many men in the bedroom?

Eat and live right

As with many ailments, erectile dysfunction can be closely related to how much you exercise and how well you eat on a daily basis. In a nutshell — by getting the right amount of cardio during the week, you will maintain a lower blood pressure which can help you to achieve healthier erections when it matters the most.

Eating right can also contribute to lowering your blood pressure with food like dark chocolate, pistachios, and watermelon all linked to lowering cholesterol and increasing the blood flow in the right areas. Some bad news for those who like the drink a few cocktails from time to time however is that drinking to excess has historically been linked to cases of erectile dysfunction. So try to cut back if you want to see improvements down there.

The importance of a healthy diet cannot be overstated in cases of erectile dysfunction as WebMD found It is estimated that around "35-75% of men with diabetes will experience at least some degree of erectile dysfunction during their lifetime." On top of that, men with diabetes will develop ED 10 to 15 years before men without diabetes.

Cut out the problem at the root

While many pills and contraptions have been touted as the end all be all cures of this worrisome condition, few have produced the same exciting restorative results as the ErectionWave treatment. Created by board certified urologist, Dr. David Shusterman, this new innovative treatment has taken a different approach to this issue than, say, swallowing a couple viagras on a nightly basis. The most exciting aspect of this treatment is that it actually works to cure the real issues behind ED and not offering a temporary solution. By directing high frequency rays towards blood vessels that have been blocked, ErectionWave treatment will increase blood through these pathways to allow for stronger and longer lasting natural erections without the assistance of pills or useless penis pumps.

Another more direct erectile dysfunction cure is known as the Priapus Shot — or otherwise known simply as the "P-shot". This completely pain-free shot has been known to not only increase sex drive but increase the overall penis size to 3.5 centimeters. The shot gets these results by by kickstarting a man's own growth factors in his blood to recruit his body's own stem cells down to the penis causing quicker regeneration of tissue and blood vessels.

If you are interested in either of these groundbreaking treatments, make your appointment with Dr. Shusterman today by calling 212-661-0060.

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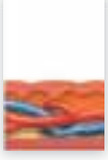

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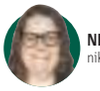
The NYCEDC just kicked off its 2018 Ferry Feasibility Study to determine sites for future landings or routes that could complement the existing NYC Ferry service.

ALL PHOTOS NYC FERRY

Help NYC Ferry decide where to sail next

Want an NYC Ferry landing in your neighborhood? The service just launched its 2018 Ferry Feasibility Study and wants your input by Oct. 15.



NIKKI M. MASCALI
nikki.mascali@metro.us

Less than a month after the NYC Ferry launched the sixth and final route of its initial rollout, the Hornblower-operated service is looking into where it should sail next.

The NYC Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) just kicked off its 2018 Ferry Feasibility Study to determine sites for future landings or routes that could complement the existing NYC Ferry service.

The first phase of the process entails briefing elected officials and community board representatives, NYCEDC said, while the second will consider factors such as water depth, population density, current transit access and travel time comparisons between those modes of existing transportation.

The NYCEDC is also looking to New Yorkers for input on additional landing sites, so if you want to have the NYC Ferry as a travel option, you have until Oct. 15 to make your voice heard on nycedc.com.

Since its launch in May 2017, NYC Ferry has served nearly 6.5 million passengers on six routes: Rockaway, East River, Astoria, South Brooklyn, Soundview and the Lower East Side.

The NYCEDC on Tuesday released its quarterly report that shows the system's on-time performance is nearly 92 percent, which is on par with other passenger ferry services across the country.

In Q2 2018, from April 1 to June 30, the Astoria route had a 95 percent on-time performance, while East River had 93 percent. South Brooklyn and Rockaway both had 91 percent. The newest routes, Soundview and Lower East Side, launched Aug. 15 and Aug. 29, respectively.

"We're slashing commuting times, connecting residents to major job centers and reuniting New Yorkers with their waterfront and helping them discover other neighborhoods," President and CEO James Patchett said. "We look forward to exploring ways to bring ferry service to more communities."

Doubts arise over whether Trump court nominee's accuser will testify

Brett Kavanaugh's once-safe Supreme Court nomination is in jeopardy, though his accuser, Christine Blasey Ford, reportedly has not responded to the Senate Judiciary Committee's attempts to contact her about appearing at Monday's hearing. GETTY IMAGES

A woman who has accused President Donald Trump's Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexual assault decades ago has not yet agreed to testify at a U.S. Senate hearing set for next Monday, raising questions about whether the high-stakes public showdown will take place.

Christine Blasey Ford, a university professor in California whose allegations have put Kavanaugh's once-safe nomination in jeopardy, has not responded to attempts by the Republican-led Senate Judiciary Committee to contact her about appearing at the hearing, committee Chairman Chuck Grassley said on Tuesday.

"We have reached out to her in the last 36 hours, three or four times by email, and we've not heard from them. So it kind of raises the question ... do they want to come to (the) public hearing or not?" Grassley said in an interview with conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt.

"I want to hear from Dr. Ford," Grassley said. "And she deserves to be heard because these are serious accusations. And I would surely hope she'd come Monday."

Ford detailed her allegation in a letter sent in July to Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the committee's top Democrat. The letter's contents leaked last week and Ford identified herself in an interview with the Washington Post published on Sunday that included details about the alleged assault.

Debra Katz, a lawyer representing Ford, said in television interviews on Monday that the professor would be willing to testify and called the alleged incident "attempted rape." Katz did not respond to Reuters requests for comment.

Democrats have so far also refused to cooperate with the committee's Republican leadership. They have asked that the FBI conduct an investigation, a request that Republicans have rebuffed. Trump and other Republicans said they do not think the FBI needs to be involved.

Feinstein said there should be more than just two witnesses, possibly to include people whom Ford previously confided in. The committee's Democrats said witnesses should include Kavanaugh's friend Mark Judge, whom Ford has said witnessed the alleged incident.

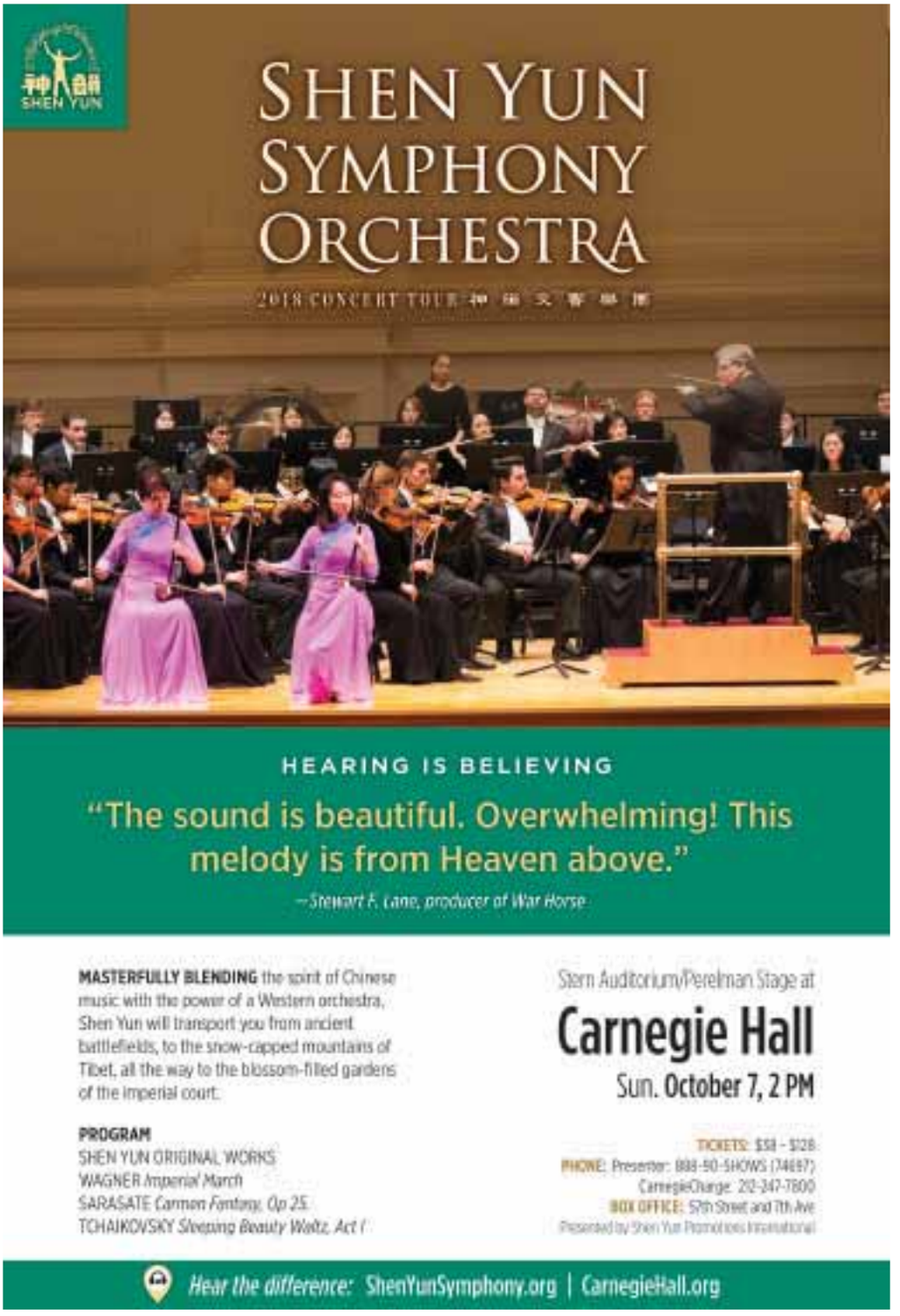
A lawyer representing Judge sent a letter to Grassley saying Judge does not want to speak publicly about the matter.

"In fact, I have no memory of this alleged incident. Brett Kavanaugh and I were friends in high school but I do not recall the party described in Dr. Ford's letter. More to the point, I never saw Brett act in the manner Dr. Ford describes," the letter quoted Judge as saying.

Judge is the author of a 1997 memoir titled "Wasted: Tales of a Gen X Drunk," which recounts his experiences as a teenage alcoholic.

One Democratic senator, Richard Blumenthal, said Kavanaugh should withdraw his nomination.

"I believe Dr. Ford. I believe the survivor here," Blumenthal said. "She has come forward courageously and bravely, knowing she would face a nightmare of possible and vicious scrutiny." REUTERS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Stormy goes into detail about Donald Trump's 'unusual' penis

Her new book has a lot of details you'll probably wish you'd never read.

MEAGAN MORRIS
letters@metro.us

Stormy Daniels' new book is telling us all about the president — and she's leaving nothing (and we mean nothing) out.

Stormy Daniels' new book, "Full Disclosure," details her life story, right down to her 2006 encounter with then-"Apprentice" star Donald Trump.

In the book, Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, recalls meeting President Trump at a 2006 celebrity golf tournament in Lake Tahoe, Calif.

"He had a red cap, a Trump crest as a placeholder for the MAGA slogan not one of us could see coming," she wrote.

Trump liked what he saw and had his bodyguard invite Daniels to dinner — a date that ended with sex in his penthouse. In Stormy Daniels' book, she calls sex with Trump "the least impressive" she's had, but "clearly, he didn't share that opinion."

Daniels describes Trump's penis as "smaller than average" but not "freakishly small."

"He knows he has an unusual penis," Daniels writes in the book. "It has a huge mushroom head. Like a toadstool …"

Add that to the list of things we never wanted to know about Donald Trump.

"I lay there, annoyed that I was getting f—d by a guy with Yeti pubes and a d—k like the mushroom character in Mario Kart…," she writes.

The revelations — excerpted in The Guardian — also go into another experience Daniels had with Trump, in 2007. On that visit, she recalls overhearing a phone conversation he had with Hillary Clinton, who was then running against Barack Obama for the Democratic nomination.

"He had a whole conversation about the race, repeatedly mentioning 'our plan'...," she writes. "Even while he was on the phone with Hillary,

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I have cramps in my legs which always happen when I walk the same distance.
My ankles are swollen most of the time.
My feet are always dry and scaly – sometimes they itch.
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Stormy Daniels NETHAN MILLER / GETTY IMAGES

his attention kept going back to the sharks."

Why did she keep seeing him, despite the lackluster sex? She wanted to ensure that he would follow through on his promise to cast her on "The Apprentice."

"We'll figure out a way to get you the challenges beforehand," she recalls him saying. "And we can devise your technique."

"He was going to have me cheat, and it was 100 percent his idea."

Daniels also reveals that she never thought Trump would make it to the White House.

"It will never happen, I would say," Daniels writes of talking about his campaign with former co-stars. "He doesn't even want to be president."

This isn't the first time someone has commented on Trump's lack of desire for the Oval Office. Michael Wolff also detailed Trump's plan to lose the election in his book, "Fire and Fury."

"Once he lost, Trump would be both insanely famous and a martyr to Crooked Hillary. His daughter Ivanka and son-in-law Jared would be international celebrities. Steve Bannon would become the de facto head of the tea-party movement. Kellyanne Conway would be a cable-news star," Wolff wrote.

"Melania Trump, who had been assured by her husband that he wouldn't become president, could return to inconspicuously lunching. Losing would work out for everybody. Losing was winning."

Daniels now has the fame she sought back in the early 2000s — for better or for worse.

"The deck has always been stacked against me," she writes in "Full Disclosure," adding: "I own my story and the choices I made."

@metro newyork

the GRUMBLE

Pat King
Grumble Editor

READER WRITE-INS:

LET BARS AND PATRONS DECIDE IF THEY'LL ALLOW DOGS

The "blame" for the lack of canine companions in U.S. taverns falls on the local health inspectors, not the bar. These self-appointed — and opinionated — guardians of the public health need to confine their activities to back-of-house and leave the decisions of who is welcome front-of-house to the tavern owner and their paying customers. That will quickly determine what the public wants versus having it foisted on them by officialdom. This country cannot hold down a claim to have a healthy food and hospitality business, as most U.S. agri-industry products are banned outside the country, due to GMOs, antibiotics and growth hormones. Get a grip on what is important, and let my dog and I grab a pint in peace — as I could do in most European countries.
— Alan Crawford, *Metro US reader*

SAYING 'COMING OFF' IS NOT RUDE!

I hate rude people also, however announcing "coming off" when exiting an elevator is far from rude. People get on elevators to get off. "Coming off" is an indication that it is that person's floor. "Excuse me" should be reserved for situations when a person is not obligated to move for someone. For example, if I need to get to the bar for my beer, I'm going to say "excuse me."
— Omar Torrance, *Metro US reader*

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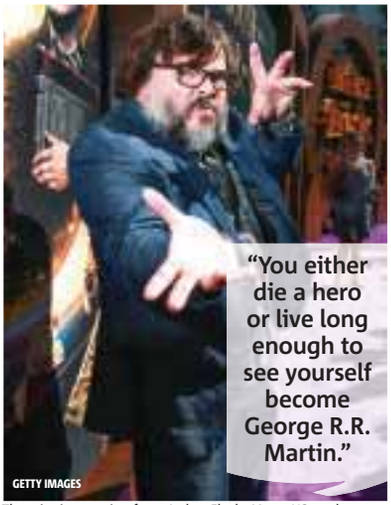

The winning caption from Arthur Fleck, *Metro US reader*

TOMORROW'S PHOTO:

metro.us/horoscopes

♈ **Aries** Take note of what others are doing to get a better idea of what you should do next. It's how you react that will make a difference to the outcome of a situation.

♉ **Taurus** A change of heart will leave you in a precarious position. Protect yourself. Choosing to remain calm will help handle uncertainty.

♊ **Gemini** A timeout will do you good. Consider what you have and the changes going on around you. Take better care of your personal belongings and your important relationships.

♋ **Cancer** Don't sit idle when you should be making moves and creating opportunities. Use your intelligence and charm to convince others to help you.

♌ **Leo** Take better care of your health and possessions. Moderation will help prevent an argument with someone concerned about your generosity or indulgent habits.

♍ **Virgo** Discuss your intentions and feelings. Someone's response will affect how you move forward, and a change at home will give you hope and bring you joy.

♎ **Libra** Don't leave anything to chance. The more things you do for yourself, the better off you'll be. If you count on others, you will be disappointed.

♏ **Scorpio** Changes with others around you may be subtle but telling. Aggression isn't the answer, but discussion and compromise will bring you closer to a workable solution.

♐ **Sagittarius** Fact-checking will help you avoid being taken advantage of by an expert manipulator. Take notes and ask reliable people to verify what you have been told.

♑ **Capricorn** The changes you indulge in should be geared toward relaxing, updating your look and improving your relationship with the people you care about most.

♒ **Aquarius** Emotions will mount. Don't let someone goad you into something you will end up regretting. You don't have to join in. Don't let temptation be your downfall.

♓ **Pisces** Get involved in something that excites you. Offering your assistance or collaborating with someone who can help you reach your goals will pay off. Partnerships are favored. **EUGENIA LAST**

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What goes up?

See the special items that astronauts took with them in "Personal Space," a new exhibit opening at the Intrepid Museum just in time for Space & Science Week.

EVA KIS
eva.kis@metro.us

Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield with his guitar on the ISS. COURTESY OF CHRIS HADFIELD

Packing for a trip is always a challenge. But when that trip is to space, astronauts have precious little room to fit in small mementos of home. They're sharing them for the first time in a new exhibit, "Personal Space," at the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum.

"You're going on this journey, and you can't deny there's some danger involved, so you're bringing that one comfortable thing," says curator Erik Boehm. "NASA had to let them do it — they're only humans after all."

Open Sept. 20 through September 2019, "Personal Space" highlights 11 different astronauts (who loaned the objects to the exhibit), an explanation of why they chose to bring what they did into space, and a photo of each astronaut with their object in space.

Boehm got the idea from former astronaut Mike Massimino's book "Spaceman," which includes a photo of him in a homemade space suit as a child who became interested in aeronautics after the Apollo 11 moon landing. He's photographed in the suit holding a Snoopy doll in a similar outfit, which he kept and brought up into space with him when he finally got to fly in orbit.

Astro Mike with his Astro Snoopy in orbit. MIKE MASSIMINO

"So I started asking astronauts when I met them, 'What did you bring?' Of course they start talking about their tools and their books and their checklists, and I say, 'No no no, what personal items did you bring?' And nobody's ever really asked them that," says Boehm.

Among the objects is a pocketwatch that astronaut Scooter Altman's grandfather had carried into the coal mines he worked decades ago. "He admires his grandfather's work ethic and keeping time and working the full day, so he brought that into the space program," says Boehm.

During the now-retired shuttle program, room was at a premium and astronauts were allowed only a roughly shoebox-sized container in which to bring personal items. Those missions only lasted for a week or two; astronauts who now serve three- to six-month stings aboard the International Space Station get more leeway.

Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield got a guitar into the ISS, where he played a viral live set with Ed Robertson of the Barenaked Ladies and Ontario choir, the Wexford Gleeks. Though the guitar remains in space for other astronauts to use, the Intrepid got Hadfield's pick.

Exhibit attendees also will be invited to share what they'd bring with them on a NASA mission to space, and their answers will be shared on social media.

"Personal Space" opens as part of the Intrepid's annual Space & Science Festival from Sept. 20-23. Four days of hands-on exhibits, experiments, special guests including NASA astronaut Sunita Williams, and a free screening of "The Last Jedi" (hey, it's space travel) all about getting young people interested in the sciences. Tickets are $33 for adults and $24 for kids up to age 12; intrepidmuseum.org

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"Star Wars" actress Kelly Marie Tran also stars in "Sorry For Your Loss." FACEBOOK WATCH

Elizabeth Olsen talks 'Sorry for Your Loss' and starting conversations about grief

The new series is now on Facebook Watch.

GREGORY WAKEMAN
Gregory.Wakeman@metro.us

While talking about brand new show "Sorry for Your Loss," Elizabeth Olsen admits she took on the project partially because she doesn't think grief should be a taboo subject anymore.

"Grief is something that we have to all go through," Olsen tells Metro. "It is this inevitable thing that people don't talk about. We don't talk about what is acceptable and what is not."

"Grief is a taboo subject. So I thought it would be interesting to fill that hole with storytelling that isn't a step program for how to overcome loss. It is about someone that is genuinely dealing with loss," she adds. "My analogy has always been, we all have this backpack that we wear that is full of trauma and pain and loss. And we walk through life with this weight on us."

The "Avengers" star notes that, when people lose someone, "the person doesn't become forgotten, you just have to adjust how you get through life with that adjustment and that new weight.

"It is about that process. It isn't clean, you don't go through stages and then it is over. There's a cyclical nature that your mind goes through, in order to not lose the memory or details," says Olsen. "The moment the memory becomes fuzzy is the moment you feel like you're losing them

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Elizabeth Olsen opens up about her new streaming series. FACEBOOK WATCH

for real. That was something that we got to play with with the flashback. It is about how memory changes.

"It is not just something we use as a tool to explain things," she adds. "We use it in multiple ways throughout the season. It is about how we perceive our memory and how they change."

But while that might make you think that "Sorry for Your Loss," which sees Olsen star as a young widow who is still coming to terms with the death of her husband, is heavy viewing, the actress insists that she was actually first attracted to it because of its unique humor.

GETTY IMAGES

"I just loved the dialogue and the way the characters developed. Leigh was a funny person to try and console," Olsen says. "I loved that the pilot made me laugh. There were certain things and details to the way her family lived and between her mom and her sister that I found really funny."

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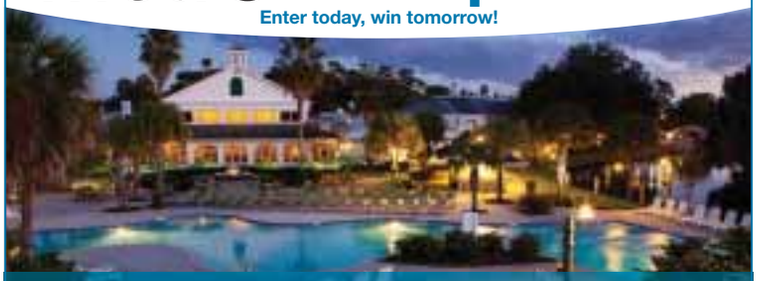

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Ken Watanabe was nearly a hostage in the crisis that inspired 'Bel Canto'

The Japanese actor stars in the adaptation of Ann Patchett's beloved novel.

GREGORY WAKEMAN
Gregory.Wakeman@metro.us

"Bel Canto" is now in select theaters.
SCREEN MEDIA FILMS

The popularity of Ann Patchett's 2001 award-winning novel "Bel Canto" always meant that an endless list of actors were going to be interested in starring in Paul Weitz's adaptation.

But while the likes of Sebastian Koch, Christopher Lambert and Julianne Moore were attracted to its dramatic story of a famous American soprano (Moore) becoming trapped in a hostage situation after she is invited to perform for a wealthy industrialist (Ken Watanabe) in South America, Ken Watanabe believes that he was always destined to star in the film.

That's because Watanabe recently revealed to Metro that he was actually in Peru until just a week before the '90s Japan Embassy hostage crisis that the film is based on — and a likely attendee to the party itself.

"I was in Peru shooting a documentary until a week before the Japan Embassy hostage crisis, which inspired the novel," Watanabe recalls. "If I was in Peru a week longer, I would have likely attended that very party. So when I received the offer, I felt like I was destined to do the film."

But while Watanabe was nearly involved in the incident, he didn't let real events influence his performance.

"I focused on empathizing with the characters within the story, feeling their pain and despair, and didn't focus on the parts of the story that were actually based on real events," says Watanabe. "But since I was traveling in Peru around that time I had a very good understanding of what the atmosphere of the country was like.

"I remember feeling like I was in a very foreign land," he adds. "I didn't think the army had control of the civilians, and I even had a very frightening experience while in Peru."

But while the hostage scenario in "Bel Canto" might make you believe that the film is a weighty and intense drama, there's plenty of levity in the film, too. For Watanabe, that only added to the richness of the script. Especially as the guerrillas and the hostages — who, despite the obvious tension between them, ultimately start to bond because of their proximity — are from different races and cultures.

"When humans are forced into a situation of high tension or mental stress, they become stripped of their outer shell," says Watanabe. "When they are exposed like that, no action that they take is all that surprising."

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PAT KING
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- SOUTH CAROLINA (-2.5) AT VANDERBILT
- TEXAS CHRISTIAN (-3) AT TEXAS
- FLORIDA (-4.5) AT TENNESSEE
- TEXAS TECH AT OKLAHOMA STATE (-13)
- ARMY AT OKLAHOMA (-31.5)
- MICHIGAN STATE (-4) AT INDIANA
- ARKANSAS AT AUBURN (-27.5)
- STANFORD AT OREGON (-1.5)
- WISCONSIN (-3.5) AT IOWA
- ARIZONA STATE AT WASHINGTON (-17.5)

BET OF THE DAY

Oregon is the favorite at home to upset Stanford, though the Cardinal just received the good news that Bryce Love was cleared to play on Saturday night. The Ducks haven't played a quality opponent like Stanford, which held USC to just three points two weeks ago. Give me a healthy Love and a solid defense any day of the week. — Joe Pantorno

The Pick: STANFORD (+1.5)

MORE ODDS AT METROBET.US

Mets' Zack Wheeler facing season-ending shutdown

The righty hasn't experienced a workload like this in four years.

JOE PANTORNO
joseph.pantorno@metro.us

Zack Wheeler's season may finish early after developing into one of the top pitchers in baseball. GETTY IMAGES

Zack Wheeler had an uncharacteristically poor start, or inning, on Monday night against the Philadelphia Phillies, squandering a four-run lead in the fifth inning to let the New York Mets' division foes back into the game.

While he leveled the ship and came away with the win, going seven innings with four strikeouts and three walks, Wheeler might have just seen his final action of the 2018 season.

Mets manager Mickey Callaway revealed that the 28-year-old might be shut down for the remainder of the year, which would only consist of one, possibly two more starts, because of workload concerns.

After starting the year in the minors after the team acquired Jason Vargas, injuries and the trading of Matt Harvey ensured that Wheeler didn't stay with triple-A Las Vegas for long.

He's pitched 182.1 innings on the season, the most since his second MLB season in 2014, one which ended in him undergoing Tommy John surgery that held him out for the following two seasons.

Returning in 2017, Wheeler struggled through 17 starts as he went 3-7 with a 5.21 ERA before he was shut down in July. A poor spring training prompted the Mets to send him down to the minors to start the 2018 season, where he didn't suggest that he would ever be the quality starter that the team traded Carlos Beltran for in 2011. Through the first 14 starts of the season, Wheeler was 2-6 with a 4.85 ERA.

The pitching tutelage of Callaway and pitching coach Dave Eiland seemed to hit home after the All-Star break.

In his last 11 starts prior to Monday night, Wheeler was one of the best pitchers in the majors during the second half, behind possibly just his teammate Jacob deGrom. He went 9-1 with a 1.67 ERA and 76 strikeouts in 75.2 innings.

Red flags began to emerge last week, though, when his velocity began to lag against the Miami Marlins before he complained of being fatigued. It's understandable considering the number of innings he's pitched after being used conservatively after such a major injury.

While his numbers remained consistent on Monday against the Phillies, the Mets still might want to take the safe route and ensure that Wheeler remains healthy through the offseason before trying to build on such a promising second half to the season.

Should everything be fine medically, the Mets suddenly have a very tantalizing trio of starters in deGrom, Noah Syndergaard and Wheeler, who is poised to finish the year with a 12-7 record and 3.31 ERA.

ZACK WHEELER

STATS SINCE JUL. 14

RECORD - **10-1**
ERA - **1.96**
OPPONENT'S BA - **.188**
STRIKEOUTS TO WALK RATIO - **4.7 WINS**

Is Wilson Ramos the Mets' next catcher?

Among the many things the New York Mets need to upgrade this coming offseason, the catcher's spot is one of the most important. Wilson Ramos could be the answer.

The 31-year-old veteran — currently playing for the division-rival Philadelphia Phillies — will become a free agent following the 2018 season, making him one of the most coveted options at his position on the market.

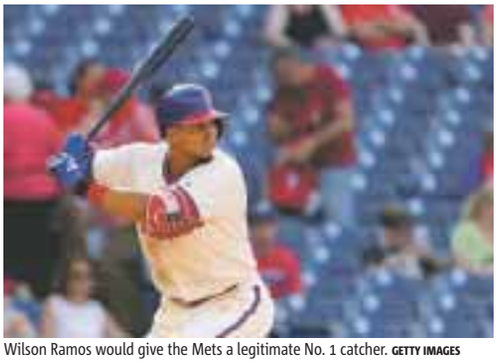
Ramos is a two-time All-Star, both appearances coming over the past three seasons. He looked poised for stardom and a huge contract in 2016, which was also a walk year, batting .307 with 20 home runs and 80 RBI with the Washington Nationals. However, a torn ACL at the end of the season saw the market dry up for him as he signed with the Tampa Bay Rays.

In 142 games over one-plus seasons with the Rays, Ramos proved that he is still an offensive threat. He batted .281 with 25 home runs and 88 RBI before he was dealt to the Phillies at the 2018 trade deadline.

He's been red-hot with the Phillies over the 23 games he's played, slashing .382/.436/.559 with 14 RBI.

Should he stay healthy, the market will be bustling for him considering offensively-gifted catchers are extremely hard to come by in Major League Baseball.

While he won't discuss his offseason plans just yet, Ramos did admit that he wouldn't mind working with a talented Mets pitching staff. And he stressed his defensive play rather than his bat.



Wilson Ramos would give the Mets a legitimate No. 1 catcher. GETTY IMAGES

"I like to work with those kinds of rotations they have because I feel like I can help with my experience," Ramos said, according to the New York Post. "Every time I am behind the plate, I try to help my guys on the mound. I love when we put zeroes on the scoreboard. That is my priority."

That experience would be paramount for a talented Mets rotation that includes National League Cy Young favorite Jacob deGrom, Noah Syndergaard and Zack Wheeler.

Ramos would provide a significant upgrade at the position for a franchise that has been waiting on Travis d'Arnaud to develop into a franchise catcher.

Kevin Plawecki, Tomas Nido and Devin Mesoraco haven't done much to suggest that they could be long-term options, either.

Ramos would quickly slot in as the team's No. 1 catcher while allowing the team to hold on to their top prospects. That wouldn't be the case if the Mets made a move for Miami Marlins star backstop J.T. Realmuto.

But for a team that has problems flashing the cash to get good players, the Mets might balk on Ramos should he ask for a substantial raise from the $10.5 million he's making this season.

JOE PANTORNO

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646-918-6116
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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT:
QUEENS COUNTY
WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.;
Plaintiff(s) vs. LIVIO PILIZOTA; KIM ROBERTS-PILIZOTA; et al;
Defendant(s)
Attorney (s) for Plaintiff (s):
ROSICKI, ROSICKI & ASSOCIATES, P.C.,
2 Summit Court, Suite 301,
Fishkill, New York, 12524,
845.897.1600
Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale filed and recorded herein on or about August 7, 2018, I will sell at Public Auction to the highest bidder at the QUEENS COUNTY SUPREME COURT, located at 88-11 SUTPHIN BOULEVARD, JAMAICA, NEW YORK 11435 IN COURTROOM #25. On October 19, 2018 at 10:00 am. Premises known as 25-37 42ND STREET, ASTORIA, NY 11103-2805, Block: 701 Lot: 29
ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE BOROUGH AND COUNTY OF QUEENS, CITY AND STATE OF NEW YORK KNOWN AND DESIGNATED ON A CERTAIN MAP ENTITLED, "MAP OF PROPERTY BELONGING TO THE ESTATE OF JOHN D. CRIMMINS, SITUATED AT STEINWAY AND FLUSHING AVENUES, FORMERLY A PORTION OF THE ASTORIA HOMESTEAD, LONG ISLAND CITY, S.P. BELCHER, CITY SURVEYOR, 135 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY" AND FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK (NOW REGISTER) OF QUEENS COUNTY MAY 16, 1921 UNDER MAP NO. 3987, AS AND BY THE LOTS NUMBERED 76 AND 77.
As more particularly described in the judgment of foreclosure and sale. Sold subject to all of the terms and conditions contained in said judgment and terms of sale. Approximate amount of judgment $461,065.88 plus interest and costs. INDEX NO. 706781/2015
David I. Weprin, Esq. Referee, Esq.

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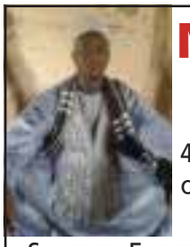
PSYCHICS



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GAMES

metro.us/crossword

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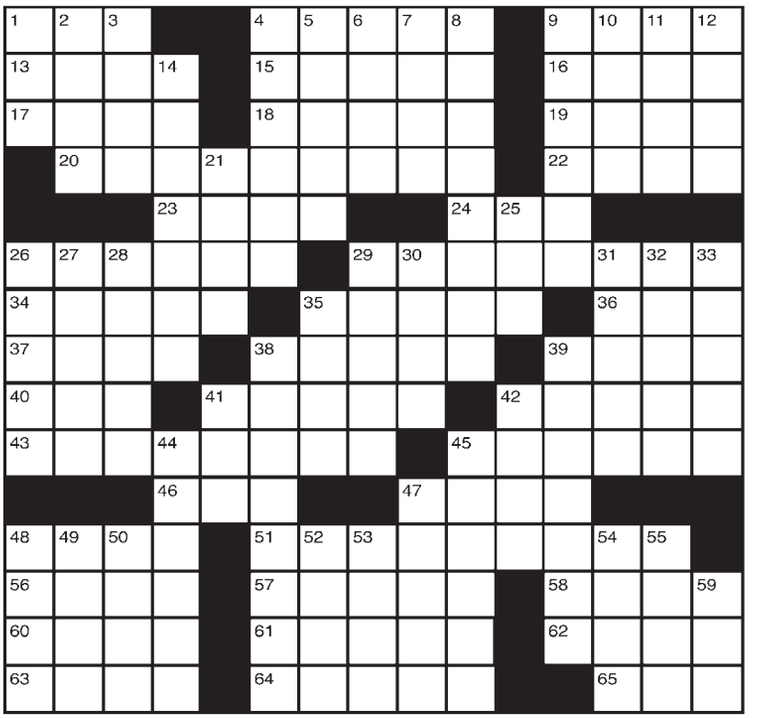

BY TCA

ACROSS

1 Major TV network
4 Decorate
9 __ and pepper
13 Congers & morays
15 Juliet's love
16 Nose's detection
17 Long heavy piece of timber
18 Mr. Eastwood
19 Rat __; daily grind
20 Thin pasta
22 "Sesame Street" fan
23 Candy store chain
24 Contented sound
26 Lullaby composer
29 Mild cold
34 Irritates
35 Halo wearer
36 Inventor Whitney
37 Ardent
38 Cake topping
39 Obstacle
40 Small amount
41 No longer fresh
42 Side-to-side measurement
43 Raincoats
45 Smooches
46 Breather's need
47 Pain in the neck
48 Fail to keep a secret
51 Arrest; capture
56 Jellystone Park bear
57 Dutch flower
58 McClanahan & others
60 Ajar
61 Eat away at
62 Clothing fastener
63 Cots and cribs
64 Septic tank alternative
65 __ as a fox

DOWN

1 Lincoln's place: abbr.
2 Flying insects
3 Applaud
4 Fallen __; foot problem
5 __ out; distributes
6 Fail to include
7 Monthly payment
8 Catching sight of
9 In a way
10 "__ in the Life"; Beatles song
11 __ horns; come into conflict
12 Spruce or sycamore
14 Intoxicated
21 Jewels
25 Many a time
26 Pitt and Garrett
27 Competitor
28 Excuse
29 Jib & spinnaker
30 Midmorning
31 Gives to a borrower
32 Gladden
33 Exhales audibly
35 Sign of an old wound
38 Repeats
39 Meg, Jo & Beth, to Amy
41 Enjoy a winter sport
42 "When You __ Upon a Star"
44 Forest homes
45 Item worth saving
47 Haughtiness
48 Letters on an invitation
49 Easy gait
50 Like fine wine
52 Untainted
53 Farm machine
54 Women with habits
55 Pass out cards
59 James Bond, e.g.

metro.us/wordsearch

U	D	E	C	K	W	P	I	H	S
Z	C	Y	R	A	M	A	T	E	Y
S	K	J	V	U	N	Y	A	L	O
T	B	Q	Y	T	S	N	L	C	H
N	E	V	E	S	O	A	O	A	A
J	O	S	H	T	N	R	E	N	C
N	M	W	N	D	A	X	R	R	S
K	O	O	H	P	J	R	E	A	T
Y	P	O	E	Z	T	W	I	B	P
E	Q	B	O	D	E	L	R	P	X

Ahoy
Barnacle
Cannon
Crew
Deck
Hook
Land ho
Matey
Parrot
Pirate
Sail
Sea
Seven
Ship
Treasure

metro.us/wander

Category: Actor

E	R	D	
W	G	N	A
R	A	L	D
F	I	E	

Trace a path, using every letter once, to find the hidden phrase. Your path can turn in any direction, but not diagonally.

metro.us/sudoku

2	8			3	1	9		
1	6	5	7					
9				5	8	1		
		3	5			2		1
	1	6				7	9	
7		2			4	6		
		9	3	6				7
					7	5	3	9
		8	9	1			6	2

Yesterday's Answers

K	N	I	T		B	R	A	S	S		S	L	A	P
N	O	N	E		R	A	R	E	R		T	O	D	O
O	N	C	E		O	C	C	A	S	I	O	N	A	L
B	O	O		T	O	E	S			T	O	E	Y	E
		H	O	O	K	S			J	A	G			
P	L	E	A	S	E			S	E	L	E	C	T	
L	A	R	K	S		M	O	T	E	L		L	O	P
E	K	E	S		D	O	N	O	R		T	Y	P	O
D	E	N		R	E	N	E	W		C	E	D	A	R
	S	T	R	U	C	K			F	R	E	E	Z	E
			E	L	K			C	L	A	N	S		
G	A	F	F	E			D	A	U	B		D	O	N
I	L	L	U	S	T	R	A	T	E		M	A	M	A
F	L	A	T		O	U	T	O	N		G	L	I	B
T	Y	K	E		M	E	A	N	T		M	E	T	S

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